

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 4, 5 and 8 without prejudice. Please amend the following claims which are pending in the present application:

1. (Currently amended) A device ~~(01, 20, 22)~~ for driving away insects ~~(03, 08)~~ moving along the ground, ~~in particular, termites, in order to protect buildings or building parts, with~~ comprising:

a support element ~~(12, 21, 23)~~ made from an electrical insulating material [and];

at least two electrical conductive elements ~~(04, 05, 06)~~ arranged spaced-apart ~~thereon~~ parallel to one another on the support element, between which an electrical voltage can be applied by means of a voltage source,

~~characterized in that,~~

the wherein a distance between the conductive elements ~~(04, 05, 05)~~ is at least ~~minimally~~ smaller than [the] a length of one of the insects ~~(03, 08)~~ to be driven away, so that the insects ~~(03, 08)~~, upon passing the support element ~~(12, 21, 23)~~ in a direction transverse to the conductive elements ~~(04, 05, 06)~~ forms a current-conducting connection between the conductive elements ~~(04, 05, 06)~~, and wherein the conductive elements ~~(04, 05, 06)~~ run vertically offset [in] at different heights, and wherein between [the] a lower most conductive element ~~[[06]]~~ and [the] a surface ~~[[07]]~~ lying thereunder, at least one minimal height difference is provided[.] ; and

a protective element extending at least partially downward and forming an intermediate chamber above the conductive elements to protect the conductive elements from moisture.

2. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support element (12, 21, 23) is formed as a smooth surface on [the] a side of the conductive elements (04, 05, 06).

3. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a connecting surface (09, 10) extends upwardly between the conductive elements (04, 05, 06) or hangs over the surface [[(07)]].

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support element [[(23)]] is formed in the manner of an elastically deformable film at least along its longitudinal axis running parallel to the conductive elements (04, 05, 06).

7. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support element [[(21)]] is formed in the manner of a stably formed profile strip, whose lower end can be pressed into the ground [[(14)]].

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The device according to claim [[8]] 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the barrier device [[(02)]] is formed in the manner of a square timber.

10. (Currently amended) The device according to claim [[8]] 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein on the barrier device [[(02)]], a film [[(13)]] extending downwardly into the ground is attached.

11. (Currently amended) The device according to claim [[8]] 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support element [[(12)]] is formed in the manner of an angular profile, wherein on the outer side of one of the legs [[(14)]], the conductive elements ~~(04, 05, 06)~~ are arranged, and wherein the inner sides of both legs ~~(15, 16)~~, upon attachment of the support element [[(12)]], come into contact at least partially on the barrier device.

12. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one leg [[(16)]] of the angular profile has recesses, in order to attach[[ed]] the profile strip by mounting of attachment means, in particular, screws or nails, to the barrier ~~device (02)~~.

13. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the inner sides of the two legs (15, 16) of the angular profile form an angle less than 90°, wherein both legs (15, 16) are connected at least partly elastically deformably with one another.

14. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein on the lower end of one of the legs [(15)], an elastic sealing element [(17)], ~~in particular, a sealing lip made of rubber,~~ is formed.

15. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the end of the support element (12, 21) can be connected by means of a coupling device [(18)] with a further profile strip, whereby an electrical connection between associated conductive elements (04, 05, 06) is formed.

16. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the coupling device [(18)] can be attached to the ends of the support element (12, 21).

17. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the conductive elements (04, 05, 06) have a spacing of 5 to 50 mm, ~~in particular, a spacing of 10 to 20 mm.~~

18. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein the conductive elements (04, 05, 06) are formed by conductive
wires, ~~in particular, made from copper or aluminum.~~

19. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein between the conductive elements (04, 05, 06), a supply voltage of
200V to 5000V is applied.

20. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein with formation of a current-conducting connection between the
conductive elements (04, 05, 06), a current with a power of 0.1 to 0.6 Joules flows.

21. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein the support element [(21)] is made from thermoplastic plastic, ~~in~~
~~particular, PVC.~~

22. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein on the device (25, 27), four conductive elements (26, 28) are
provided, which extend parallel to one another along the longitudinal axis of the
device (25, 27).

23. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein conductive elements (26, 28) adjacent to one another are connected with different polarity to the voltage source.

24. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the conductive elements ~~[(26)]~~ are formed to be wavy along their longitudinal axes.

25. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the conductive elements ~~[(28)]~~ are formed to ~~[(be)]~~ have a forked section along their longitudinal axes.

26. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the forked section of the conductive elements ~~[(28)]~~ run at an angle of 5° to 22°, ~~in particular, at an angle of approximately 16°.~~